

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226482

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EAID EGEN PINT US ET

SUBJECT: EASUM TALKS WITH OAU SEC GEN ETEKI

1. OAU SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAM ETEKI MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS (INCLUDING A LUNCHEON IN HIS HONOR) DURING HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON OCTOBER 10-11. THE MAJOR ISSUES ETEKI RAISED WERE THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTION, A PROPOSAL THAT USAID COORDINATE WITH THE OAU ITS MULTILATERAL AID PROGRAMS, A SUGGESTION THAT THE US MIGHT ASSIST THE OAU IN INTERESTING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN COVERING THE ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES, AND A PLEA FOR MORE LIBERAL DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES FOR THE OAU MISSION IN NEW YORK.

2. PARAMOUNT IN ETEKI'S CONCERN WAS THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ETEKI MAINTAINED THAT THE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES, IF DIRECTED TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA IN THE SAME WAY THAT IT HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA IN THE SAME WAY THAT IT HAS BEEN
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DIRECTED TOWARD CUBA, COULD BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN

SOUTH AFRICA'S APARTHEID POLICY.

3. ETEKI INDICATED THAT AFRICAN DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK MAY BE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR THE SUSPENSION RATHER THAN EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE UN THOUGH THEY WOULD

STRIVE FOR THE LATTER. AT ONE POINT ETEKI SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT AFRICANS MIGHT VOTE WITH US ON ISSUES WE CONSIDERED OF PRIME IMPORTANCE PROVIDED US VOTES WERE MORE IN LINE WITH BLACK AFRICAN PREFERENCES.

4. ETEKI SAID AFRICANS BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN COULD END THE STALEMATE IN RHODESIA. THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT. HE SAID THAT IAN SMITH AND HIS FOLLOWERS HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM A BLACK GOVERNMENT BUT THE SOONER SUCH A GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED THE EASIER IT WILL BE FOR THE RACES TO LIVE TOGETHER.

5. ETEKI ASKED THAT THE US STRENGTHEN ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OAU AND ITS REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. HE SAID THIS IS A FIELD IN WHICH THE OAU AND THE UNITED STATES CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BETTERMENT OF AFRICA AND ONE IN WHICH THE OAU WANTS TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE.

6. ETEKI TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE PROBLEMS AFRICA HAS CONFRONTED IN GETTING ITS STORY TOLD IN THE UNITED STATES. HE ASKED FOR ADVISE AND ASSISTANCE IN THIS.

7. ETEKI MENTIONED THE NEED FOR MORE LIBERAL PRIVILEGES FOR THE OAU MISSION IN NEW YORK. OAU UN REPRESENTATIVE OUATTARA SAID HE WOULD BE SENDING US A NOTE ON THE SUBJECT. WE EXPLAINED THE DIFFICULTIES WE FORESAW IN TERMS OF CONGRESSIONAL RELUCTANCE ON SUCH MATTERS. INGERSOLL

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